CLAIMS:

1.   An identification number managing apparatus, comprising:

memory means of saving an identification number which is processed as a common identifier in a plurality pieces of IEEE1394 equipment which can operate independently of each other; and

communications means of forwarding said identification number to said plurality pieces of IEEE equipment,

characterized in that said IEEE1394 equipment, upon acquisition of said identification number forwarded from said communications means, generates said identifier from said identification number and establishes a configuration ROM which contains said identifier.

2.   The identification number managing apparatus in accordance with Claim 1, characterized in that said plurality pieces of IEEE1394 equipment are configured as one product,

and that said identifier indicates that said plurality pieces of IEEE1394 equipment are said one product.

3.   The identification number managing apparatus in accordance with Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said identification number is in compliance with IEEE1212 Standard.

4.   IEEE1394 equipment which works together with an

identification number managing apparatus in accordance with any one of Claims 1 through 3, characterized in comprising means of processing said identification number as said identifier which can be included in said configuration ROM.

5.   An identification number managing system, characterized in comprising:

the identification number managing apparatus in accordance with any one of Claims 1 through 3; and

IEEE1394 equipment in accordance with Claim 4.

6.   An identification number managing method, comprising:

a memory step of saving an identification number which is processed as a common identifier in a plurality pieces of IEEE1394 equipment which can operate independently of each other;

a communications step of forwarding said identification number to said plurality pieces of IEEE1394 equipment;

a generation step at which said plurality pieces of IEEE1394 equipment, upon acquisition of said identification number forwarded from said communications means, generate said identifier from said identification number; and

an establishment step at which said plurality pieces of IEEE1394 equipment establish a configuration ROM which contains said identifier.

7.   The identification number managing method in accordance with Claim 6, characterized in that said plurality pieces of IEEE1394 equipment are configured as one product,

and that said identifier indicates that said plurality pieces of IEEE1394 equipment are said one product.

8.   The identification number managing method in accordance with Claim 6 or 7, characterized in that said identification number is in compliance with IEEE1212 Standard.

9.   A program which makes a computer function as all or a part of memory means of saving an identification number which is processed as a common identifier in a plurality pieces of IEEE1394 equipment which can operate independently of each other of an identification number managing apparatus and all or a part of communications means of forwarding said identification number to said plurality pieces of IEEE equipment in accordance with Claim 1.

10.   A program which makes a computer function as all or a part of means of processing said identification number as said identifier which can be included in said configuration ROM in IEEE1394 equipment in accordance with Claim 4.

11.   A program which makes a computer function as all or a part of memory means of saving an identification number which is processed as a common identifier in a plurality pieces of IEEE1394 equipment which can operate independently

of each other in an identification number managing apparatus in accordance with any one of Claims 1 through 3 all or a part of communications means of forwarding said identification number to said plurality pieces of IEEE equipment, and all or a part of means of processing said identification number as said identifier which can be included in said configuration ROM in IEEE1394 equipment in accordance with Claim 4 in an identification number managing system in accordance with Claim 5.

12.   A program which makes a computer execute all or some of:

a memory step of saving an identification number which is processed as a common identifier in a plurality pieces of IEEE1394 equipment which can operate independently of each other;

a communications step of forwarding said identification number to said plurality pieces of IEEE1394 equipment;

a generation step at which said plurality pieces of IEEE1394 equipment, upon acquisition of said identification number forwarded from said communications means, generate said identifier from said identification number; and

an establishment step at which said plurality pieces of IEEE1394 equipment establish a configuration ROM which contains said identifier or an identification number

managing method in accordance with Claim 6.

13. A medium which can be processed by a computer and holds a program which makes a computer function as all or a part of memory means of saving an identification number which is processed as a common identifier in a plurality pieces of IEEE1394 equipment which can operate independently of each other of an identification number managing apparatus and all or a part of communications means which forwards said identification number to said plurality pieces of IEEE equipment in accordance with Claim 1.

14. A medium which can be processed by a computer and holds a program which makes a computer function as all or a part of means of processing said identification number as said identifier which can be included in said configuration ROM in IEEE1394 equipment in accordance with Claim 4.

15. A medium which can be processed by a computer and holds a program which makes a computer function as all or a part of memory means, which saves an identification number which is processed as a common identifier in a plurality pieces of IEEE1394 equipment which can operate independently of each other in an identification number managing apparatus in accordance with any one of Claims 1 through 3 in an identification number managing system all or a part of communications means which forwards said identification number to said plurality pieces of IEEE

equipment, and all or a part of means of processing said identification number as said identifier which can be included in said configuration ROM in IEEE1394 equipment in accordance with Claim 4, in accordance with Claim 5.

16. A medium which can be processed by a computer and holds a program which makes a computer execute all or some of:

a memory step of saving an identification number which is processed as a common identifier in a plurality pieces-of IEEE1394 equipment which can operate independently of each other;

a communications step of forwarding said identification number to said plurality pieces of IEEE1394 equipment;

a generation step at which said plurality pieces of IEEE1394 equipment, upon acquisition of said identification number forwarded from said communications means, generate said identifier from said identification number; and

an establishment step at which said plurality pieces of IEEE1394 equipment establish a configuration ROM which contains said identifier or an identification number managing method in accordance with Claim 6.